

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MELBOU 02189 210737Z
ACTION EPA-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 OES-07 /024 W
-----045567 210756Z /21

P R 210643Z OCT 77
FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4107
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS MELBOURNE 2189

E O 11652 N A
TAGS SENV, OECD, AS
SUBJ: AIR AND WATER POLLUTION STANDARDS

REFS A STATE 246231 B CANBERRA 7217

1. AS STATED IN REFTEL B, AIR AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT ARE HANDLED BY INDIVIDUAL STATES IN AUSTRALIA. POST CONTACTED AUTHORITIES IN STATES OF OUR CONSULAR DISTRICT (INCLUDING VICTORIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AND TASMANIA) WITH REQUEST FOR INFO CONVEYED BY REFTEL

A. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF OUR FINDINGS.

2. STATE OF VICTORIA: CONTACT: MR P
LE ROY, TECHNICAL OFFICER, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AUTHORITY OF VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, VIC. VICTORIA USES
A WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSING SYSTEM FOR AIR AND WATER
POLLUTANTS. ALL STATES USE AIR POLLUTION GUIDELINES
CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT ISSUED BY NATIONAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL
RESEARCH COUNCIL (NH&MRC) WHICH POST WILL POUCH
TO DEPT (EA/ANP) WHEN RECEIVED (SEE PARA 5). AIR
QUALITY GOALS (AS DISTINGUISHED FROM STANDARDS) ARE
CONTAINED IN QTE WHO TECHNICAL REPORT SERIES NO
506 UNQTE WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS AVAILABLE IN
WASHINGTON. THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS FOLLOWING STANDARD
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PAGE 02 MELBOU 02189 210737Z

FOR PHOTOCHEMICAL SMOG: 8-HOUR AVERAGE OF 60 MICROGRAMS/
CUBIC METER AND 1-HOUR MAXIMUM OF 120 MICROGRAMS/
CUBIC METER.

NUMERICAL POLLUTION LIMITS OF WATER LICENSES ISSUED ARE A
FUNCTION OF MANY FACTORS INCLUDING MAGNITUDE OF POLLUTANT
FLOW, CAPACITY OF RIVER OR STREAM TO ABSORB POLLUTANTS,

ETC. FOLLOWING IS APPROXIMATE RANGE OF WATER
LICENSES RECENTLY ISSUED: B O D - 15 D O, PH 6,
PHOSPHORUS 2 P P M TO B O D - 800, SUSPENDED SOLIDS-
600 P P M, PH 9.5, TOTAL NITROGEN 40 P P M, PHOSPHORUS
20 P P M. VICTORIA HAS LARGE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM
RESULTING THUS FAR IN 129 CONVICTIONS FROM WHEN PROGRAM
COMMENCED IN JUNE, 1973. TYPICAL FINES LEVIED HAVE
RANGED FROM A\$20 TO AS HIGH AS A\$9250 WITH AVERAGE FINES
IN A\$500-600 RANGE(A\$1 EQUALS APPROX US\$1.13.).

3. STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA: CONTACT FOR AIR POLLUTION
CONTROL: MR ALEC SMITH, DEPT OF HEALTH, STATE
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, ADELAIDE, S A; CONTACT FOR
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL: MR KEITH LEWIS, S A
ENGINEERING AND WATER SUPPLY DEPT, ADELAIDE, S A.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA CONSIDERS THAT NO AIR QUALITY QTE
STANDARDS UNQTE EXIST (ONLY GUIDELINES PUT OUT BY
NH&MRC) BUT THAT NH&MRC PRESENTLY WORKING ON DEVELOPING
SUCH STANDARDS. AUSTRALIA USES NH&MRC GUIDELINES TO TEST
FACTORY EMISSIONS.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROLS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA ARE
CONSIDERED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AND ARE FUNDAMENTALLY
DIFFERENT IN THAT STATE AS MOST INDUSTRIES DISCHARGE TO
SEWERS RATHER THAN TO RIVERS AND STREAMS.
MAX FINES FOR AIR POLLUTION CONVICTIONS ARE A\$2000
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PAGE 03 MELBOU 02189 210737Z

AND A\$200/DAY FOR EACH DAY THE OFFENSE CONTINUES.
WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN PROSECUTIONS AND CONVICTIONS,
POST WAS TOLD THAT GOOD COOPERATION EXISTED BETWEEN
INDUSTRIES AND AIR POLLUTION AUTHORITIES. ON WATER
POLLUTION CONTROL SIDE, NEW LEGISLATION HAS NOW BEEN
IN EFFECT FOR ONE YEAR AND DEPT IS PRESENTLY PERSUING
FIRST PROSECUTION.

4. STATE OF TASMANIA: CONTACT: MR JOHN POTTINGER,
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL, DEPT OF THE ENVIRONMENT,
STATE OF TASMANIA, HOBART, TAS. WHILE TASMANIA USES
NH&MRC GUIDELINES, POLLUTANT LIMITS ARE CONTAINED IN
RELEVANT TASMANIAN REGULATIONS. THESE TOO VOLUMINOUS
TO CABLE; POST WILL POUCH REGULATIONS (SEE PARA 5).
TASMANIA DIVIDES INDUSTRIES INTO QTE SCHEDULED UNQTE
AND QTE NON-SCHEDULE UNQTE SEGMENTS. SCHEDULED
INDUSTRIES ARE, IN GENERAL, THE MAJOR POTENTIAL
POLLUTERS AND LICENSES ARE SPECIFICALLY ISSUED TO
THESE INDUSTRIES WHICH INDICATE MAXIMUM POLLUTION
PERMITTED. SCHEDULED INDUSTRIES MONITOR THEMSELVES
BUT DEPT OF THE ENVIRONMENT CAN AND DOES CHECK
POLLUTION LEVELS. NON-SCHEDULED INDUSTRIES ARE

MONITORED BY VARIOUS STATE GOVT OFFICIALS AND EVEN
POLICE. MAXIMUM FINES IMPOSABLE ARE A\$5000 FOR FIRST
OFFENSE AND A\$2000/DAY FOR CONTINUING OFFENSE.
POLLUTION CONTROL ACT PROCLAIMED IN TASMANIA IN
JULY, 1973 AND ENFORCEMENT BEGAN IN JAN, 1975. IN
PAST 12 MONTHS, THERE HAVE BEEN ABOUT 20 PROSECUTIONS.

5. IN COURSE OF OBTAINING ABOVE INFORMATION, MANY
RESPONDENTS INDICATED THEY WOULD FORWARD POST FURTHER
DETAILED INFO ON SPECIFIC POLLUTION GUIDELINES,
ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES, ETC. POST WILL POUCH/AIR MAIL
THESE MATERIALS TO DEPT (ATTN, EA/ANP) AS SOON AS
RECEIVED, PROBABLY BY OCT 25.

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PAGE 04 MELBOU 02189 210737Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR POLLUTION, WATER, POLLUTION, STANDARDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MELBOU02189
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770387-0433
Format: TEL
From: MELBOURNE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771034/aaaabcne.tel
Line Count: 136
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 37ba9c29-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EPA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 832293
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIR AND WATER POLLUTION STANDARDS
TAGS: SENV, AS, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/37ba9c29-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009